



Buzz Bitesize: January 2014

Welcome to Buzz Bitesize. Circulated monthly, Buzz Bitesize provides the latest news, views, events and opportunities from across campus. Why not take a look at the Buzz Facebook and Twitter accounts for the latest campus news and opportunities throughout the month.

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Vice-Chancellor's Open Forum

Date: 28 January

Time: 12.30–1.30pm

Venue: Elgar Concert Hall, Bramall Music Building

In this term's Open Forum, the Vice-Chancellor will be interviewed by Greg Hurst, Education Editor at The Times, on key issues facing the Higher Education sector and University of Birmingham. Higher Education is experiencing a period of rapid change which is creating significant challenges for all universities. Birmingham is in a strong position to meet these challenges, and this is your chance to learn more about, and discuss these opportunities with Professor David Eastwood. All staff are encouraged to attend.

University car share scheme

The University has partnered with national provider Liftshare.com to provide staff with a car share scheme 'UB Liftshare', launching on 11 February. For some, travelling to work by car really is the only option, so why not try car sharing to save money and minimise your environmental impact. UB Liftshare will enable staff to search for



potential car sharing matches. Car sharing has many benefits; not only is it good for the environment but it is good for your wallet too! The scheme is free to use and available to all staff with a University of Birmingham email address. Car sharing does not have to be an everyday event, you can choose to share as little or as often as you want – even one day a week can make a difference. Further information is on the [intranet](#).



Vice-Chancellor's Distinguished Lecture Series: 'The British State: Past, Present, and Future'

Date: Tuesday 11 February 2014

Time: 6–7pm

Venue: Elgar Concert Hall, Bramall Music Building

At a time of unprecedented global change, this thought-provoking lecture will reflect on times past and lessons for Britain's future. Entitled 'The British State: Past, Present, and Future', this lecture will be delivered by the University's Vice-Chancellor Professor David Eastwood. [Registration](#) is essential; further details are on the [University website](#).



BUAFTAs 2014 – raffle tickets

The BUAFTAs raffle is organised every year for University staff and students. All participants have the chance to win great prizes including an iPad, £100 cash or an Amazon Kindle. Tickets are only £1 and are available from [local champions](#), and BUAFTA team members. All winners will be announced during the BUAFTAs gala on 28 February. The raffle is an opportunity to not only win amazing prizes, but also to support Acorns Children's Hospice. Acorns is a registered charity offering a network of care for life limited and life threatened children and young people and their families. Further details and full list of prizes are available on the [intranet raffle page](#). You can also follow us on Twitter [@BUAFTAs](#).

News

New car park opening soon

The new University car park, located next to 52 Pritchatts Road, is opening soon and will be known as the North East Car Park. The Car Park will operate using Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) meaning that users will pay on exit rather than pay and display. Staff who hold a blue or purple permit will be able to park here and swipe on exit. Please note staff who choose to pay and display for their car parking may only use the North Car Park and Pritchatts Road Car Park, or alternatively may register for salary deduction from 6 January. All other users of this car park will need to pay the daily rates or use an alternative car park. For details on daily parking rates or to register for salary deduction please visit the [intranet](#). The South Car Park will close on commencement of the new sports centre development; further news will be available shortly.

Mobile Security Standard

Mobile devices such as smartphones and tablets can boost productivity, but they have a significant vulnerability when it comes to protecting the confidentiality and integrity of information stored on them. The University's 'Mobile Security Standard' mandates the use of mobile device management (MDM) software for accessing University email. The chosen software is 'Good for Enterprise' and its use is mandatory, except for approved exceptions. If you need mobile access to University email for work, request 'Good for Enterprise' via the IT Service Desk. Anyone unlikely to receive confidential email may apply for exemption through their Director or Head of School. Exemptions will be approved by Heads of College, or the Registrar for Corporate Services. You must have a valid 'Good' licence, an approved exemption or use Outlook Web Access (OWA). Other email access methods, such as 'active sync' are prohibited. Further details are on the [intranet](#).

Campus speed limits

You may have noticed that a vehicle speed activated sign has been installed on the ring road outside the Old Gym. This is part of a suite of measures aimed at reducing speeding on campus to help protect the safety of pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers. The sign is capturing data on driver speeds and this will be used to enforce the campus speed limit. Please note that the speed limit on campus is 15mph. Please contact [Sustainable Travel](#) for further information.

#AlumniChristmas

The Alumni Relations Team took to campus in December to find out what would top our students' Christmas wish-lists if they could ask alumni for anything. The event was created to show our alumni community how much the students appreciate the help they receive, and to give our experienced graduates some thoughts on how they can help current students in their academic and future work. The event was a big success with many inspiring ideas including calls for guest lecturers, mentoring, funding for PHD and postgraduate studies, and much more. To see more #AlumniChristmas wishes and photos, visit [Pinterest](#) or [Storify](#).

Saving mothers' lives at GLOW conference

In November the GLOW Conference 2013 brought over 140 professionals from around the world to the University to share their experiences and to guide the future development of research and clinical policy in the field of global women's and newborn health. A symposium busy with presentations and posters from committed specialists disseminated astute and exciting insights to make a difference in saving mothers' and babies' lives, especially in low and middle income countries. The event was hosted by Ammalife and the University in the spectacular Great Hall of the University.

Careers Network award

For the third year running, Careers Network (part of Academic Services) has been shortlisted for the prestigious National Undergraduate Employability Awards. The Birmingham Undergraduate Internship Programme has resulted in Birmingham becoming the first University to be shortlisted for the 'Best New Provider of Work Experience', and the College of Social Sciences placement team has been shortlisted for 'Most Improved Commitment to Employability' for their highly successful Professional Development Module. Careers Network, former winners in the University category for the last two years, are delighted with the continued recognition of their flagship work experience initiatives. Results will be announced on 7 March.

Nominations for Honorary Degrees

Do you know someone who has made a major contribution to academic, regional or national life? Have you considered nominating them for an honorary doctorate of the University? Recent honorary graduates include the actor Adrian Lester, the Medical Director of the British Heart Foundation, Professor Peter Weissberg, and Deborah Cadbury, author and television producer. Nominations can be made by anyone who is an employee, student, alumnus, member of honorary staff, or lay member of Court or Council of the University. The next deadline for nominations is 4 February 2014. Further information on how to make a nomination is available on the [University website](#) or by contacting [Laura Johnson](#).

National Student Survey 2014

The National Student Survey (NSS) 2014 launches on 20 January. Now in its tenth year, this annual national survey is aimed at all final year undergraduate students across the UK. The NSS is an invaluable opportunity for our students to express their opinions about their time at the University to help us understand how well we are meeting their needs and what we need to do to make further improvements. Results from the NSS are widely published and provide unique feedback to prospective students. All eligible students will be sent an email from Ipsos MORI, an independent research company, inviting them to take part. NSS champions are in place in each School to help coordinate activities and promotion. To find out more visit the [NSS site](#) or contact [Valeria Arzenton](#) and [Heather Cryer](#), Market Research Officers.

Events

Lewis Carroll's Alice

Dates: 7 January–31 March

Venue: Main Library Foyer

An exhibition of early illustrations from Lewis Carroll's much-loved Alice books, from the Cadbury Research Library, Special Collections.

Fiscal Responsibility in the UK

Date: 22 January

Time: 4.30pm

Venue: Vaughan Jeffreys Lecture Theatre, School of Education

A guest lecture followed by an open question and answer session with Professor Stephen Nickell, a member of the UK Budget Responsibility Committee. Professor Nickell has held Economics Professorships at both LSE and Oxford, and was President of the Royal Economic Society from 2000–2003. He is a Fellow of the Econometric Society, and the British Academy, as well as being a foreign honorary member of the American Economic Association and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Professor Nickell was also a member of the Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee from 2000–2006.

[Registration](#) is required; for further details contact [Danann Swanton](#).

Visual Securitization: Taking Security Studies from the Word to the Image

Date: 23 January

Time: 5pm

Venue: Room 417 Muirhead Tower

Professor Lene Hansen, of the University of Copenhagen, will examine how images can generate international conflict. For those wanting to get new security issues onto the global agenda, the use of imagery has also turned out to be crucial. This talk asks how we should theorise the particular form of security communication that visuals produce. What analytical and methodological challenges arise when we move from theorising security as a speech act or linguistic discourse to an image act? To register attendance email [Leigh-Ann Cragg](#).

Family Circles: British Portrait Miniatures

Date: 24 January–6 May

Venue: Barber Institute of Fine Arts

The family, and how its members are depicted on portrait miniatures, is the theme of this display of outstanding small masterpieces from two important English private collections. Complementing the exhibition Ruby's Room, it includes delightful and intimate portraits of children, brothers, husbands and wives, as well as groups of miniatures depicting members of particular families or dynasties. Among artists represented are Isaac and Peter Oliver, Nicholas Dixon, Bernard Lens, James Scouler, John Smart, and William Ross.

Using Research to Create Sustainable Social Benefit through Social Enterprise

Date: 29 January

Time: 12–2pm (lunch provided)

Venue: BizzInn, Birmingham Research Park

Many researchers are motivated by the potential for delivering benefits to society through their research; this also links to the impact agenda. The University has been awarded funding for pump priming social enterprise activities, and to provide small grants to researchers with an idea for a social enterprise. This lunchtime seminar will provide details on the fund and experiences of social entrepreneurs from both inside and outside the University. [Registration](#) is essential.

Chinese New Year Family Day

Date: 2 February

Time: 11am–3pm

Venue: Barber Institute of Fine Arts

Come along and celebrate the year of the horse with exciting live music and dance performances, Chinese folk stories in the galleries, and origami horse activities. The event is free and there is no need to register. For further details visit the [Barber website](#).

The Shift and the Shocks: lessons of the global financial crisis

Date: 5 February

Time: 4.30pm

Venue: Avon Room, University Centre

A guest lecture followed by an open question and answer session with Martin Wolf, Financial Times journalist. Martin Wolf, CBE, is associate editor and chief economics commentator at the Financial Times and widely considered to be one of the world's most influential writers on economics. Martin was awarded a CBE in 2000 'for services to financial journalism' and has been a forum fellow at the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos since 1999. [Registration](#) is required for further details please contact [Danann Swanton](#).

Opportunities

UBSport express classes

BODYCOMBAT™, BODYATTACK™, BODYBALANCE™ and BODYPUMP™ express classes are a great way to get in shape when you are pressed for time, and mean that you don't have to forsake your fitness goals for a hectic schedule. UBSport offers express classes based on the Les Mills programme, but there are also express classes for Spin, Pilates and Abs. There is a free class week from 13–19 January, to find out more visit the [UBSport website](#).

U21 PhD Scholarships now open

International Relations offer a number of scholarships each year to assist PhD students in travelling to our U21 partners to further their research. Each scholarship pays up to £1,500 to assist a student with travelling and accommodation costs. A visit would be expected to be for a period of approximately one month between August 2014 and July 2015. The deadline for applications is 29 March 2014. Further details are on the [intranet](#).

Graduate internships

Do you work with students? If so please encourage them to visit the [Careers Network's graduate internship pages](#) that has details of new paid opportunities. Current opportunities include Junior Developer graduate internship, Marketing Assistant graduate internship, Graduate Ecologist internship, Medical Communications graduate internship and many more.

Transition Review

During Transition Review, Academic Skills Centre staff and Library Subject Advisors will be offering undergraduate students additional sessions to boost their academic success. The programme will run throughout February and will cover topics such as effective research techniques, help with referencing, essay planning and academic writing. Additional generic sessions include critical thinking, time-management, improving revision, examination, and presentation skills. To view the full Transition Review programme visit the [Academic Skills Centre intranet pages](#).

Participants needed

Physical activity study: Researchers in the School of Sport, Exercise and Rehabilitation Sciences are comparing different physical activity strategies and looking at changes in body composition, body shape and muscle tone. They are looking for female volunteers aged 25–50 years, who are non-smokers, above ideal weight, and don't currently exercise. Participants will be paid £150 for completing the study. Further details and registration form are on the [University website](#).

Contact Buzz Bitesize

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